

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KADUNA 00012 041512Z
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-01 /019 W
-----041532Z 067893 /46

R 041420Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL KADUNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3483
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0012

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC (FRANCIS, LEONARD O.)
SUBJECT: W/W: ARREST (LEONARD O. FRANCIS)

REF: (A) LAGOS 13820 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 309924 (NOTAL),
(C) KADUNA 1031.

1. CONSULATE WAS FINALLY ABLE REACH LEONARD FRANCIS BY PHONE IN MAIDUGURI ON JANUARY 4. ACCORDING FRANCIS, CITIZEN BAND RADIO EQUIPMENT WHICH HE HAD BROUGHT TO NIGERIA IN HOPE CONTINUING HIS HOBBY WAS CONFISCATED BY POLICE NOVEMBER 26. RIGHTLY SUSPECTING THAT FURTHER POLICE ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN, HE IMMEDIATELY WROTE EMBASSY (REF A) AND MS. ANGELA EDWARDS (REF B). ON DECEMBER 6, POLICE ARRESTED HIM AND FLEW HIM TO LAGOS WHERE HE WAS HELD UNTIL RELEASED AND RETURNED TO MAIDUGURI ON DECEMBER 19. FRANCIS, WHO WAS HELD IN CELL FOR FIRST NIGHT IN LAGOS AND IN SMALL ROOM FOR REST OF DETENTION PERIOD, BELIEVES SITE HIS INCARCERATION WAS ON IKOYI AND CLAIMS HAVE OVERHEAD CONVERSATIONS INDICATING IT WAS SAME LOCATION WHERE FEBRUARY 76 COUP ARRESTEES WERE HELD.

2. DURING DETENTION, FRANCIS WAS INTERROGATED TWICE FOR APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MINUTES. HE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PHYSICALLY MISTREATED BUT WAS UNABLE OBTAIN MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR BAD EAR INFECTION. HE WAS NOT AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE EMBASSY OF HIS DETENTION. UPON HIS RETURN TO MAIDUGURI,
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HE SENT ACCOUNT OF HIS ARREST AND DETENTION TO EMBASSY IN DECEMBER 20 LETTER. WORK PERMIT AND PASSPORT ARE STILL IN HANDS OF NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES; FRANCIS WHO HAS BEEN ON SICK LEAVE SINCE HIS RETURN TO MAIDUGURI PLANS DEPART NIGERIA ASAP AFTER RETURN HIS DOCUMENTS.

3. CONSULATE SENDING LETTER TO MAIDUGURI POLICE

COMMISSIONER REQUESTING RETURN OF DOCUMENTS AND CB EQUIPMENT AND INDICATING DISSATISFACTION AT LACK OF NOTIFICATION OF ARREST AND DETENTION. E/C OFFICER JENSEN WHO WILL TRAVEL TO MAIDUGURI ON JANUARY 13 AFTER RETURN FROM U.S. WILL BE INSTRUCTED SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH POLICE COMMISSIONER OR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TO DISCUSS THIS CASE AND SEEK GREATER COOPERATION FROM POLICE IN NOTIFICATION TO CONSULATE ON W/W AND ARREST CASES.

4. BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD BRING THIS CASE TO ATTENTION MEA.

5. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS BE ANOTHER INSTANCE OF OVERREACTION ON PART OF LOCAL APPARAT OR NSO. WHILE EXPERIENCE OF FRANCIS WAS BAD ENOUGH, RELATIVELY LIMITED PERIOD OF DETENTION AND LACK OF INTENSIVE INTERROGATION MAY BE SIGN THAT LAGOS NSO HQ NOT AS UPTIGHT AS IN RECENT PAST. ON OTHER HAND, MAY MERELY BE SIGN THAT NSO BUREACRACY ALSO TENDS RELAX DURING PRE-HOLIDAY SEASON.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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